

## EPA and Tribe Host Ecological Design and Sustainable Development Workshop

October 26-27, 2000

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians hosted a Tribal Ecological Design and Sustainable Development workshop in Odanah, Wisconsin. This workshop was co-sponsored by U.S. EPA Region 5 through a tribal solid waste/multi-media grant. The goal of the workshop was to provide Region 5 tribes with practical approaches to designing and implementing community development projects that are environmentally sustainable. Planners, environmental staff, and other members of tribal communities in Region 5 attended.

Workshop participants learned concepts in ecological design and sustainable development; acquired techniques to implement sustainable practices -- from planning, funding, and design to procurement and construction; and practiced conducting a design charrette on an actual tribal development project. Attendees broke into three groups to focus on the siting, architectural design, and energy efficiency opportunities for the Bad River Band's future tribal elder center. This exercise helped to stimulate creativity, articulate values, and uncover challenges and opportunities.

The workshop featured presentations on tribal efforts in renewable energy systems, photo-voltaic and wind power, and alternative septic system designs. Information also covered the use of recycled and other alternative building materials, and funding for rural development and small business development.

In February 2001, the Bad River Band used the information from the workshop and charrette in a larger charrette exercise open to the tribe's community members. The community's input was incorporated into draft architectural plans developed for their tribal elder center.